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Stalin De-Mystified

Adrian Chan-Wyles, PhD

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

The misrepresentation of Joseph Stalin in Western, bourgeois rhetoric, is 'ahistorical' and a deliberate 'mystification' that has risen solely out of an inverted 'religiously' inspired mind-set. Such a 'mystified' misrepresentation has no basis in the academic method, and consequently possesses no factual root in the objective historical record. The psychology of the Western bourgeoisie (even in its modern, secular form), is historically steeped in the theology of the Judeo-Christian tradition. This primitive and non-scientific view of the world is simplistic, long-lasting, and very powerful in its infantile imagery. It is a pre-scientific system of thought that offers solace in the form of fairy-tales to those who willingly 'submit' and 'believe', and threats of eternal damnation coupled with demonic punishment for those who do not. The Judeo-Christian system separates the world into an unnatural dichotomy of 'good' and 'evil', which vastly over-exaggerates the properties of both states. Therefore, the Western bourgeoisie habitually categorises those in its favour as 'saints', and those in its disfavour as 'sinners'. This is a powerful, but illogical regulatory religious system that is designed to prevent free thought and scientific enquiry premised upon the use of logic. As the Western bourgeoisie is apriori opposed to the loss of its own class dominance and privilege, it obviously takes the approach that Scientific Socialism (and anyone who believes in it) are collectively messengers of the devil, and incorporate in their characters, every vestige of 'evil' that is imaginable. Joseph Stalin - the actual man of real history who lived and acted in the world - is replaced by the Western Bourgeoisie with an entirely imagined and fictional Judeo-Christian demon. Therefore it can be logically stated that the problem of the misrepresentation of Joseph Stalin in the West, is in fact a problem of religion and religious teaching, and demonstrates the direct collision between a progressive Marxist state of mind, and that of a primitive, feudalistic and religious state of mind, that has survived into modern times, directly as a result of bourgeois class privilege. This being the case, the most obvious and direct rectification of Joseph Stalin's reputation, lies not necessarily in countering each lie one by one with the factual truth (although this is important and certainly has its place), but rather in directly exposing and deconstructing the Judeo-Christian religious origin that lies at the root of the misrepresentation itself. If this root can be clearly identified, then it becomes clear that the false and alternative image of Joseph Stalin the ogre, is nothing but Judeo-Christian bigotry disguised as pseudo-history – very much like the subject of theology itself. Theology is an 'imagined' representation of 'history' that is often embarrassed and inconvenienced by the presence of bare historical facts. However, as its basis is 'faith' – or the deliberate sustaining of an 'irrational' belief in something that is not there – this acts as an inoculation against the ability of concrete facts to breakthrough. This is why Stalin - the Judeo-Christian 'myth' - has such a longevity even in the face of actual historical facts and events. As 'faith', by its very definition, is an irrational holding of an opinion with no basis in fact, the mythological 'Stalin' becomes, for all intents and purposes, not only a 'devil', but also the very embodiment of the 'anti-Christ'. Everything he has ever said and done is transformed into the 'devil's work' and tool of pure evil. His position in the world is therefore, to manipulate and mislead. Nothing he does is legitimate and all is a charade pretending to be 'good'. This is exactly how the Judeo-Christian bourgeoisie perceives the world and falsely represents Joseph Stalin. Surely Stalin - the real man of history – would have practically dealt with the misrepresentation efficiently, in a genuinely Marxist-Leninist fashion. There are two key narratives that vie for supremacy in the Judeo-Christian Western mind, regarding the reality and legacy of Joseph Stalin (1878-1953). Of course, the preferred interpretation of Stalin, his life and his work depends entirely upon the 'class' and psychological conditioning of the observer. As the bourgeoisie detests anything that empowers the working class (particularly the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao, etc), then obviously it will prefer the denigrated image of Stalin that emanates from within its greed-infested psyche. The other narrative, that is the 'real' story of the life of Joseph Stalin, built as it is from the observation of corroborated, historical facts, has no place in the bizarre world of bourgeois pseudo-reality, that passes as 'objective thought' for many. This can be seen in the general (and dysfunctional) 'historical' narrative pursued within bourgeois academia whereby bourgeois historians 'copy' one another's misrepresentation of historical events, and no longer pursue the 'true' academic method of 'proving' that something has happened (i.e. the 'no

hypothesis'), or is likely to have happened. Instead, this bourgeois 'side-stepping' away from reality has created a mythical, religiously based interpretation of reality that is purely driven by a pathological imagination that is justified and directed entirely through the auspices of class prejudice and privilege. Therefore, the Joseph Stalin that exists within the Bourgeois, Western narrative is one of religious myth, with little or no connecting with the facts pertaining to objective history. As the Western bourgeois, anti-Stalin, academic clique has failed on all counts to clearly define its philosophical terms and convincingly explain its research methodology, its collective (and negative) view of Joseph Stalin can be clearly defined as 'religious' in nature and not historical. As 'religion' is premised upon 'blind' faith, the Western, bourgeois narrative of Joseph Stalin can be abandoned from any further or serious academic consideration, and instead interpreted as a further validation of the critique of the bourgeoisie (and its corrupting methods) as defined by Marx and Engels, and further interpreted by Lenin, Stalin and Mao. As a 'religious' belief masquerading as academic assessment, the anti-Stalin clique in the West is perpetuating a 'belief' system that makes no rational or logical sense. The two prevailing 'Joseph Stalin' narratives can easily be defined as follows:

1) *The Correct Dialectical and Historical View of Joseph Stalin*

Joseph Stalin skilfully pursued the tenants of Scientific Socialism as defined by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and correctly interpreted by Vladimir Lenin. The genius of Joseph Stalin is evident by his intelligent understanding of Marxian thought, and its application through Leninism. Not only this, but following the death of Lenin in 1924, Stalin was able to keep at bay the revisionists, Trotskyites, Western spies, and counter-revolutionaries, whilst continuing the Leninite programme of building a Socialist State out of the ruins of a feudalistic, imperialist regime. He did this with the objective of firmly establishing Socialism in Russia and its surrounding countries (i.e. the USSR), and supporting and exporting the revolution across the globe. Leon Trotsky was a major problem because he was never a committed communist, but rather merely an attention seeker through the auspices of 'revolution'. His traitorous mentality became a fertile trading ground for the bourgeois West that desperately sought to destroy the working class, revolutionary regime Lenin had established virtually from scratch and with no outside help or assistance. In the duplicity of Leo Trotsky, the capitalist West found a willing and power-mad counter-revolutionary already firmly implanted within the Soviet system. When Trotsky was expelled for his crimes from the USSR (in 1929), the emphasis of the bourgeois West switched to sullying the Communist Movement amongst the Western proletariat, as a means to prevent its effective unification around the Marxist-Leninist message, and to stop it mounting a solid resistance against the ravages of predatory capitalism. This project of bourgeois misrepresentation of Marxist-Leninism, inevitably led to Leon Trotsky tailoring his supposed Marxist viewpoints to suit the prejudices of the Western middle class (and Russian counter-revolutionaries). This created a weird mish-mash of vague leftist and rightist political sentiment and rhetoric that denies the existence and validity of the USSR, and which is today easily recognisable as Trotskyite Socialism. Trotskyites inevitably pursue inherent, rightwing agendas (enthused with racial prejudice) that are hidden behind a very thin veneer of misconstrued Marxist ideology. Joseph Stalin effectively identified and countered the Western-backed, Trotskyite counter-revolutionary movement in the USSR, during the late 1930's. This Western project of attempting to bring-down the USSR was temporally 'halted' during the Second World War. The wartime (and unelected) prime minister of the UK – Winston Churchill – was a well-known supporter of Adolf Hitler and fascism, prior to the embarrassment of Eastern and Western Europe being successfully invaded and annexed by Nazi German forces. This situation led to the UK declaring war on Nazi Germany and Winston Churchill appearing to change his positive opinion about fascism on the surface. Churchill desperately sought allies as the UK stood alone in Europe against German Nazism – and found an ally in Joseph Stalin and the USSR – a regime that Winston Churchill had openly despised whilst simultaneously eulogising the accomplishments of Adolf Hitler. Churchill encouraged the USSR to fight bravely and sacrifice its populace against the Nazi menace in the dual hope that Hitler would be weakened, and the USSR brought to its knees. Even at the height of the 'Great Patriotic War' as it was known in the USSR, Churchill schemed to bring down the Soviet regime whilst appearing to support it. However, even prior to the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War in 1940, Joseph Stalin had successfully managed to negotiate with Hitler (who had been given a free hand by the Western powers to attack the USSR), and managed to manipulate Hitler in attacking Westward and over-running the very bourgeois powers that conspired against the USSR. After the Second World War, the Western bourgeois powers simply re-established their policy of antagonism against the

workers' movement. At this time the USSR had grown in military prowess and geographical area, and its triumphant Red Army stood at the very doors of the Western, bourgeois powers, but history demonstrates that it was not Joseph Stalin who laid the foundations for the so-called 'Cold War' but rather Winston Churchill and Harry Truman (the rightwing Christian President of the United States). Joseph Stalin kept to all the wartime and post-wartime agreements, but the USA adopted a deliberate obstructive attitude designed to create tension and possible military action. Joseph Stalin did not take the bait but adopted a peaceful approach to East-West relations which allowed him time to re-build the devastated infrastructure and superstructure of the USSR. Following Joseph Stalin's death in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev eventually rose to power, and in his supposed 'Secret Speech' of 1956, demonised the reputation of Joseph Stalin, and in so doing, cemented his place as leader of the USSR. Grover Furr's excellent research on this issue clearly demonstrates that Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' a) was not secret at all, and b) contained a tissue of lies, half-truths, and deliberate deceptions. This happened because Khrushchev was part of a Western backed, Trotskyite conspiracy to bring down the USSR. Nikita Khrushchev was Leon Trotsky's greatest weapon that was internalised in the USSR, the very essence of bourgeois counter-revolutionary thought, which led directly to the betrayal of the USSR by Mikhail Gorbachev, in the late 1980's.

2) *Incorrect Dialectical and Historical View of Joseph Stalin*

The incorrect view of Joseph Stalin has a much broader remit than that of representing the individual man himself. The origins of the demonization of Joseph Stalin lie deep in the recesses of the religiously conditioned psyche of the bourgeoisie, and represent a direct attack on the essence of Scientific Socialism itself. The falsification of Stalin is the simultaneous falsification of Marx – as this is the very point of 'mystifying' and 'defying' the true course of historical events. The idea that Stalin (and Marx) are compassionate and wise with regard to the working class and its needs, are transmuted into an 'evil' that lies about its presence and direction. Stalin the hero of the working class, becomes Stalin the anti-hero of the working class. The man who strove for decades to fulfil the needs of the workers, becomes the man who systematically strove to disempower and punish the very same working class. The man who kept the true spirit of Lenin's work alive, becomes the same man who abandoned Marxist-Leninism and retained power by deceit. Stalin, the man who held the Communist Soviet Union together when all seemed lost during the Great Patriotic War, is Stalin the man who fully embraced Nazi German fascism. Stalin the Communist is Stalin the Nazi. This illogicality is typical of that found within the political rightwing and the bourgeois thought process in general, and is the basis of all religiosity. As the bourgeoisie enjoy all their luxuries entirely as a consequence of working class sweat, it is within their class interests to prevent Communism and Socialism from appearing appealing to a persecuted working class. The ignorant workers, oppressed as they are by the bourgeois yoke, have their minds poisoned against the very philosophy that represents their own class interests. The grip of the bourgeoisie is so thorough in the Western world that the workers are drip-fed a steady diet of disinformation designed to present Marxism as 'wrong', 'Marxist-Leninism' as misled, and Joseph Stalin (arguably the greatest of all Soviet Leaders) as thoroughly evil and corrupt. The intensity of the inverse nature of Bourgeois propaganda changes to match the perceived strength of the threat to its class privilege. As Joseph Stalin and the Red Army destroyed Nazi German fascism, Stalin became a central target for bourgeois religiosity. In the region of around 30 million Soviet men, women and children died fighting Nazi Germany, but despite the enormity of the casualties suffered, the bourgeois myth-makers continue to distort reality by insisting that Stalin was a Nazi and a fascist. When it is pointed-out that Marxist-Leninism is the exact 'opposite' of Nazi fascism, the religiously inspired lack of Bourgeois rationality states that this is explainable by the fact that Communist thought is exactly the same as fascist ideology. This is why the working class must be kept ignorant and away from the means of higher education. It is important for the bourgeoisie to present a mythological Joseph Stalin to the general public – a Stalin who exists solely to deprive the masses of their freedom, and to secretly work for the establishment of fascism within existing Communist states. The only other text in existence that contains this type of illogicality, irrationality, and ahistorical approach to the history of the world, is that of the Judeo-Christian bible, which, page after page presents a primitive worldview premised upon blind faith. Those misled by the ahistorical approach of the dominant bourgeoisie must possess an unquestioning faith in everything it states. The false image of Stalin is equal to that of a god existing in heaven, and to the story that it is possible for a woman to give birth to his divine son without the act of prior copulation. The false Stalin is Stalin the mass murderer,

Stalin the brute, Stalin the manipulator, Stalin the fascist, Stalin the dictator, Stalin the liar, Stalin the womaniser, Stalin the ogre, and Stalin the tyrant. This is the pseudo-truth of the religiously minded Bourgeoisie, the mind of which is still conditioned by centuries of irrational Judeo-Christian theology. It is unscientific and has no bearing on historical fact or truthful interpretation. Joseph Stalin was a great man because he was a 'real' man. An imagination defined by religiosity is an imagination that possesses a blank cheque to create reality in any manner it sees fit because it is not limited by the logic and rationality of science. The lies about Joseph Stalin are big because the Judeo-Christian theology that inspires it, believes that it invented the world and everything in it. Every true Marxist Leninist should thoroughly reject religiosity as a legitimate means to interpret reality, and in so doing literally 'see through' the tissue of lies that serves as 'fact' for many. In this way, Joseph Stalin can take his place as one of the truly great proletariat world leaders.

THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

Marx, throughout his writings (but particularly within The German Ideology) states that the critique of the bourgeoisie is in fact the criticism of religion. This observation specifically refers to the Judeo-Christian tradition, the theology of which politically dominated Europe for around 1500 years. Marx explains that this is an inverted mind-set whereby the deluded perception of humanity interprets reality back to front, and the wrong way around. For instance, it is logically and scientifically correct to state the physical brain (as the mind) gives rise to thoughts in the head. The rational series of events is this; a physical body is produced through procreation and this physical body contains the organ that is the brain. The brain, being a physical organ that is consciously 'aware' of its own existence, is invariably described as a special arrangement of matter. When a physical brain is formed and appropriately developed, it possesses the ability to generate thoughts. Thoughts are generally an inner reflection of environmental experiences and serve the purpose of creating an inner dialogue as a means to understand the outer environment. However, the thought capacity does not just 'reflect', but possesses the advanced conscious ability to generate 'new' ways of viewing the world and devising unique methods to solve problems. No matter how clever the human mind can be (with its intelligence level potentially limitless), the series of events is always first the physical organ of the brain must exist, and secondly only then can a 'thought' be produced. The theology of the Judeo-Christian tradition is logically inverted because its main premise is that 'thought' (or 'spirit') possesses the ability to a) pre-exist matter, and b) create matter as an act of will. This coincides with the inverted idea that 'god' (a thought in the head) created the physical universe. Or to put it more succinctly, the inverted Judeo-Christian thinking implies that a 'thought' in the head created the 'head' itself. God is an idea generated in the human mind that is then mistakenly believed to a) 'objectively' exist in the environment, and b) to have created the very same environment from nothing, as an act of divine will. In this regard, the teachings of theology represent the preservation and perpetuation of historical ignorance. The superstitious mind is 'inverted' because it lacks the internal order and perspective associated with logic and reason, as such, it represents by definition, illogicality and irrationality. A thought generated in the mind, in and of itself, is nothing more than a thought generated in the mind, regardless of its content. This is true even if the 'thought' has the power to transform human existence in the world through directed labour. What a 'thought' cannot do is give rise to the brain that created it. This is why the bourgeois exist in a world of class privilege (obtained through greed and manipulation of society and its productive forces), entirely built upon the edifice of denial and inverted thinking. As the bourgeois live in a world of falsehood mistaken as fact, a genuine Marxist-Leninist should, after reading Marx and Lenin, correct this historically conditioned fault (enforced into the minds of the working class) and view reality through a true class consciousness that clearly perceives what is right from what is wrong. When this is achieved it is perfectly clear that Joseph Stalin was a great leader and a true Communist. It is his life's work that should be studied to progress humanity, and the inverted nonsense spoken about him, consigned to the dustbin of history.

Letter to V. I. Lenin – October 3, 1918

Comrade Lenin!

First of all, greetings, and then let me tell you something about the affairs of our front and Trotsky's orders.

The attached document will give you a picture of an extremely unpleasant conflict between workers on the Southern Front and Trotsky. The fact is that Trotsky, generally speaking, cannot do without his vagaries. In Brest, he dealt a blow to the cause with his exorbitant "left" quirk. On the issue of the Czechoslovaks, he also damaged the cause with his strident fancies back in May. Now he is striking again with his vagary about discipline. In fact, all that Trotskyite discipline means is that the most prominent figures of the front will sit back and contemplate military specialists from the camp of "non-partisan" counterrevolutionaries and are not to interfere with the latter while they are destroying the front (this is what Trotsky calls non-interference in operational matters).

In general, the fact is that Trotsky cannot sing without a falsetto or act without overplaying, and I would not have had anything against his gestures if the common interests of us all did not suffer from them at the same time.

Therefore, I ask you, in a timely manner, before it's too late, to appease Trotsky and put him on the leash, for I fear that if Trotsky's extravagant orders continue, giving the entire front to the hands of the so-called military specialists from the bourgeoisie who deserve every bit of distrust, it will cause discord between the army and the command structure, and will destroy the front definitively. Our new army is built due to the fact that new revolutionary commanders are born next to the new soldiers. To impose on them notorious traitors like Sytin or Chernavin is to detune the whole front.

I'm not even talking about the fact that Trotsky, who just joined the party yesterday, is trying to teach me party discipline, forgetting, obviously, that party discipline is expressed not in formal orders, but, above all, in the class interests of the proletariat.

I'm not a fan of noise and scandals, but I feel that if we do not immediately create a bridle for Trotsky, he will corrupt our whole army for the sake of the "left" and "red" discipline, which makes even the most disciplined comrades sick. Therefore, it is necessary now, before it's too late, to curb Trotsky, calling him to order.

I shake your hand.

Yours,

Stalin.

Source of the letter: J. V. Stalin. Collected Works, Vol. 17, Tver: Northern Crown Publishing Company, pp. 69-70, as available at Library Mikhail Grachev.

Translated and edited by the American Party of Labor.

Class Before Nation: Reject the SNP Budget and Prepare for the Battle Against Scottish Austerity

Amjad Ayub Mirza

On December 14 the Scottish National Party (SNP) Finance Minister, Derek Mackay presented to the Scottish Parliament the Scottish Government's budget for 2018-19. It is yet another example of the ruling SNP's pro-capitalist approach to solving the problems faced by our economy. Its claim that 1.4 million working people who earn less than £26,000 will be better off due to paying a lower percentage of taxes due to change in the tax band system announced by our financial genius, Mr Mackay, is equivalent to throwing dust in the eyes of reality. He declares that the introduction of a new 19 per cent tax band will in effect mean lowering of taxes for those those earning between £11,850 and 13,850. However, Mr Mackay's budgetary juggle will add only £7.50 a month to those earning less than £20,000 a year! And not only that, in fact 1.6 million wage earners who earn more than £26,000 will be worse off as they will see an increase in their tax rates.

The Mackay budget does not even satisfy its credentials on capitalist economic terms. As reported in the Scottish edition of the *Sunday Times* on Sunday 17 December, Mr Mackay was unaware of the economic term '*Laffer Curve*' which indicates that lower taxes boost growth. US-based Mr Laffer (no friend of the working class) told the *Sunday Times* that the current measures by Mr Mackay *"will put Scotland on a par with Greece: they discourage growth".* Quoting late US President, John F. Kennedy, Mr Laffer said that "*the best welfare is good high-paying jobs, and you get that through low taxes that enable companies to invest and expand".* Hence the SNP cannot develop the Scottish economy and therefore will be unable to raise the living standards of Scottish working people by capitalist means.

Mr Mackay's announcement during his Budget speech that the new Land and Building Transaction tax threshold will be increased to £175,000 is another example of the SNP's drive to expand the private ownership of property and increase its vote bank among the proprietor classes. There is no mention of tackling homelessness in Scotland. *Shelter Scotland* reported *"every 19 minutes a household in Scotland becomes homeless. 3250 homeless families in Scotland are staying in temporary accommodation and in one year there has been a 10% increase in rough sleeping".*

We need more investment in social housing. Renting is a disgrace and is a source of economic burden and utter humiliation for working people. Rent eats into the vital financial resources of the working class and wages running out before the month has become a common occurrence. Landlordism should be abolished. Landlordism is a parasitic practice that sucks away the hard-earned wages of the working people.

The announcement that those working in the public sector will be given a 3% pay rise is a joke. The actual demand of the £10 an hour minimum wage is at the core of Scottish workers' demands at every protest rally held since the referendum in 2014. And this rise has been cancelled out as he has allowed the 32 Scottish local councils to raise Council Tax by 3%! The SNP is transferring the burden of austerity cuts over to the working classes by allowing the councils to raise taxes.

To give corporations tax relief should be an eye opener for many SNP rank and file workers who joined this party of the Scottish bourgeoisie during the early period of the century when it posed as a 'progressive', centre 'left' party.
The Scottish Government is in its true sense trying to manage a deficit budget by manipulating numbers.

How does the SNP Government plan to deal with the curse of zero-hour contracts and the fact that a £7.50 minimum wage is far too little to cope with the ever-increasing cost of living? What about people in our country being pushed into debt and economic hardship due to the unjust practice of Universal Credit? And what about the savagery of the almost decade-long pay cap on public service workers?

How does the SNP Government plan to tackle the issue of Child Poverty? According to the *Child Poverty Action Group*, more than a quarter of children are living in poverty. John Dickie, Director of the C*hild Poverty Action Group* told this scribe that increasing Child benefit by just £5 a week would help to lift 30,000 (14%) children out of poverty in Scotland.

The same day as the Budget was being thrown at us, the Scottish Fiscal Commission published its first (and very depressing) independent forecast of the onshore Scottish GDP growth. According to the report, growth will

remain under 0.9 per cent until 2021. Hence, the GDP growth forecast for 2017and 2018 is 0.7 per cent, 0.6 per cent in 2020 and 0.9 per cent for 2021. The SNP has absolutely no clue as to how it could strengthen our GDP and increase the GDP to grow more than 1 per cent over the next four years.

The SNP Budget has focused itself on temporary solutions. These include cuts and raising taxes. They have no concrete plans to generate sustainable growth that could generate a GDP above 3%, the standard GDP growth rate that is demanded by the European Commission as a pre-condition to join (and remain in) the European imperialist club. Hence, even after having the mandate to call for a second 'Indy Ref', the Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon is hesitant to take this bourgeois adventurous road.

As the Scottish Nationalists try to put on a brave face in the wake of an insulting and demeaning budget that was approved with the support of the Green Party, the question that the Left in general and the Scottish working class in particular now is faced with is how to organise a popular mass movement that presents the concrete demands of the working classes as the core of such a movement. How to counter the SNP's reactionary pro-capitalist government and replace it with a totally new economic system that prioritises the abolition of private property through nationalisation of vast swathes of economy, establishes a people before profit economic morality, abolishes landlordism and makes free access to social housing its top priority and establishes equal pay for all genders and ages?

Marxist-Leninist Tendency (*MLT*) Scotland is a newly formed political organisation that aspires to reunite Scottish working people under the slogan *'Class Before Nation'* is calling on all trade unions and left-wing political organisations, including left campaign groups, to gather at 12 noon on January 6, 2018 at the Buchanan Street steps near the Donald Dewar statue in Glasgow to show their disapproval of an anti-people budget. *MLT* is calling for sections of Scottish Left and STUC to put *'class before nation'* and unite under the banner of fighting austerity and a pro-capitalist SNP Government and to demonstrate in practice that Scotland is ready for the battle against austerity.

Amjad Ayub Mirza is the Scottish representative for 'Friends of ICOR' and moderator for Marxist-Leninist Tendency in Scotland. He can be reached at shaboroze@gmail.com

My Position on Balochistan: Supporting 'nationalism' vs supporting the 'struggle against national oppression'

Dr. Taimur Rahman

Though there is now an unprecedented campaign on social media and television of my alleged treason – a campaign whose outcome is of great importance to my personal safety and security – sadly, its real impact is also directly proportion to its intellectual barrenness and utter sterility.

It is far more interesting and fruitful to frame a progressive position on Baloch nationalism, especially in light of the implications of the Turbat massacre of workers.

What I would like to introduce amongst my comrades is the distinction between 'supporting nationalism' and 'supporting the struggle against national oppression'.

Those who support nationalism must find a basis upon which to justify the anti-progressive steps of nationalist movements. These anti-progressive steps stem from the class roots of nationalism and are more or less pronounced in relation to nature of the propertied class that dominates the nationalist movement (that is, whether it is tribal, landed, bourgeois, or petty bourgeois).

But those who support, not nationalism, but the struggle against national oppression need not be concerned with the reactionary steps taken by nationalist forces. The aim of their struggle is to unite the working people of all nations into a struggle against the ruling class.

This unity of the working people of the oppressor and oppressed nation against the ruling class can only be solidified when the working people of the oppressor nation also struggle against national oppression. Just as there cannot be unity between white and black workers unless white workers also fight against racism, similarly, there cannot be unity between Punjabi and Baloch working people unless Punjabi workers also fight against the national oppression of the Baloch.

In sum, we progressives support the 'struggle against national oppression' in order to bring about the unity of all the people of all religions, nations, languages into one unified movement against the capitalist neo-colonial system.

Hence, there is no need for us either to find a justification for reactionary steps by nationalists, nor to link our struggle against national oppression to the reactionary or progressive actions of nationalist forces. Our struggle against national oppression goes on irrespective of the progressive or reactionary actions of nationalist forces because the aim of our struggle is for class unity of the workers of all nations against class exploitation.

We believe that in socialism all the hatred between the people of difference nations will come to an end. As Marx wrote in the Communist Manifesto, "In proportion as the exploitation of one individual by another will also be put an end to, the exploitation of one nation by another will also be put an end to. In proportion as the antagonism between classes within the nation vanishes, the hostility of one nation to another will come to an end."

We stand not for division but for unity of the working class against the exploiters. That is why Marx ended his Manifesto with the slogan "Workers of the World Unite!"

Baloch, Sindhi, Punjabi, Pushtun and working people of all ethnicities and nations must unite against the establishment.

Source: Posted by the writer on a social media site (facebook) on April 15, 2015.

North Korea discovers a fifth-generation biological fertilizer

Rim Ok

In February this year the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) conferred a certificate of the world intellectual property right and a medal of inventor on Yu Son Ok who had developed a natural biological activator based on materials in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. She is the head of a Koryo biological medicine laboratory of the botanical research institute under the State Academy of Sciences. The biological activator is fifth-generation organic fertilizer which is so widely used as to be well known to everybody engaged in agriculture.

Yu was originally an expert on animal husbandry and veterinary work. She changed her career for the following reason.

In the 1980s the DPRK underwent a huge loss in agricultural production owing to the multiplication of rice water weevils. She was grieved at the reality.

At the time Yu was a teacher of the faculty of animal husbandry and veterinary science of the then Sukchon College of Agriculture. She had not enough time to do educational work and the research at the same time. So she would sleep only for two hours a day. Her goal was to develop a vegetable insecticide. She analysed the properties of plants growing in mountains and fields of the country and found out over 200 kinds of vegetable sources capable of killing the abovementioned insects. At last she developed the agricultural medicine—titled Myongrok whose basic elements are vegetable. It killed the weevils that had been killed only by chemicals and over 80 other sorts of harm ful insects. Then there was formed a Koryo biological medicine research group with her as its pillar. Thus, she could accelerate the research.

One day a new idea hit Yu as she considered that plants had maintained their species with their own function of protection. What attracted her attention was that some plants emit essential oil disliked by insects or poison fatal to insects or defend their habitat by suppressing others' growth. She combined such plants' ingredients to develop another vegetable insecticide Myongrok-3 free from the disadvantage of Myongrok that had been used only as insecticide. Myongrok-3 was a composite vegetable insecticide which made it possible to sterilize seeds without using such chemicals as copper sulphate, formalin and iron sulphate, prevent damage from harmful insects, accelerate growth and increase the rate of rooting of trees.

Yu was not content with that. Now she decided to develop natural fertilizer to substitute chemical fertilizer. To develop the natural fertilizer, she examined physiological activity of over 300 kinds of plants and found out the elements necessary for growth of crops. Thus she succeeded in developing the natural biological activator.

The multifunctional fertilizer is really like a tonic for plants. And it advances the time for an increase in chlorophyll content from three hours to two hours compared with organic fertilizer made in the countries leading the world in organic agriculture, and increases grain output while decreasing the utility of chemical fertilizer 50 percent.

Yu received three state patents, got five national standards, wrote eight scientific books and published over 30 valuable essays. Her research achievements always won high ratings at national science and technology festivals, exhibitions and shows. Thus she became a Doctor and a Merited Scientist, and was awarded the February 16 Scientific and Technological Prize, the highest honour for scientists in the country.

She had two sons, and the sons and their wives are also scientists. The elder son together with his mother, received a certificate of the aforesaid kind. This means that the tradition of the scientists' family is being carried forward. Having devoted herself to scientific research out of patriotism for nearly 40 years, Yu is still working as a scientist.

Source: http://exploredprk.com/articles/woman-doctor/

Imperialism's drive to war in Korea

Red Youth

At the beginning of April, US President Trump made the startling announcement that "if China is not going to solve North Korea, we will," arrogantly adding, "China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't. And if they do, that will be very good for China, and if they don't it won't be good for anyone."

In the wake of that announcement, this week the USS Carl Vinson carrier group was announced to be travelling to Korea, later revealed to be untrue, a bit of fake news to bolster Trump's declaration on 12 April that the US is "sending an armada" to join in with the regular provocative military exercises conducted on the Peninsula. Around 30,000 US troops are stationed in South Korea, with a further 50,000 in Japan and 3,000 in Guam.

US imperialism is known for being staunchly against any nation not firmly under its economic or military control to be capable of defending itself, and Korea is perhaps the most frustrating example of an independent nation.

Unlike Iran, whose nuclear program was set back by the US-Israeli Stuxnet virus (the virus destroyed or damaged Iranian equipment, primarily at the uranium enrichment facility at Natanz, before an agreement was reached to reduce sanctions in return for Iran scaling-back its nuclear programme), Korea has forged ahead with its nuclear programme, recognising it as a necessary tool to secure their independence from US imperialist forces.

It is vitally important that we consider the present situation in historical context. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was born in struggle against Japanese imperialism, which was succeeded, on half of the Korean Peninsula, by US imperialism at the end of World War 2. During Japanese occupation some 5 million Koreans were conscripted into forced labour, with 400,000 dying as a result, and around 200,000 Korean women and children were forced into sexual slavery for the Japanese military. The Korean language was suppressed, and Koreans were forced to adopt Japanese surnames, while tens of thousands of cultural artifacts were destroyed or stolen.

After the defeat of Japanese imperialism, with no small part played by Korean and Chinese communist guerillas, the US and their nationalist Korean pawns feared the establishment of a socialist government on the entire peninsula, and undertook the suppression and massacre of Korean communists in the south.

Following the unilateral declaration of the Republic of Korea in the US-occupied south, revolts and uprisings occurred across the territory. In total, some 100,000 were killed, while compradors from the Japanese occupation largely retained their elite status and jobs (53% of the police in the south of Korea had previously served the Japanese occupying forces). With no peaceful solution in sight, the buildup of US troops in the occupied south, and the fascist crackdown by dictator-puppet Syngman Rhee, war was inevitable.

Although keen to commit genocide on the entire population of northern Korea with nuclear weapons, US imperialism somehow confined itself to undertaking this task via conventional warfare, dropping 635,000 tons of bombs on the north of Korea, including 32,557 tons of napalm. These bombs, more than the 503,000 tons of bombs dropped in the entire Pacific theatre of World War II, destroying the majority of the cities in the north and killing around 4 million Koreans. Imperialist forces on the ground displayed equal inhumanity, carrying out orders to kill all civilians on sight. Despite these losses the Korean people bravely fought, with the aid of the Chinese and Soviets, the imperialist forces to a standstill, signing an armistice in 1953.

Despite the American assertion that it would take 100 years to rebuild Korea, the work was completed in 10. In fact, while the streets were still in flames, and the armistice being signed, an exhibition showing the general plan of restoration of Pyongyang was held at the Moranbong Underground Theater. More recently, the highway constructed south from Pyongyang towards Seoul was named Reunification Highway.

Red Youth yearns for a world free from nuclear weapons, and indeed all weapons and warfare, but we recognise the reality of the world today makes that an impossibility. We refuse to equate the violence of the oppressor with the violence of the oppressed. While the US and other imperialist countries maintain stockpiles of thousands of nuclear warheads, and allows client states such as Israel to flout the non-proliferation treaty, it is sheer hypocrisy and imperialist warmongering to criticise the DPRK for developing a nuclear deterrent.

The US has invaded, intervened via mercenaries and espionage, and undertaken military operations in dozens upon dozens of countries since the end of WWII, while the DPRK has never committed a single act of aggression against another country. The US maintains troops and command structures across every continent save Antarctica.

As the global crisis of capitalism deepens the forces of imperialism become ever-more rabid and dangerous. It cannot therefore be discounted that a war could be deliberately sparked off very soon by US imperialism through an attack on the DPRK, leading China and perhaps also Russia to come to the DPRK's defence.

Although anti-war forces can and must now go into overdrive to try to prevent this war, as indeed the war that is threatening with Russia over Syria, it must be realised that the threat of wars of various kinds will continue to hang over humanity for as long as imperialism continues to exist. Imperialism is merely the highest form of capitalism, so the threat continues as long as the world clings to the capitalist mode of production which is now outlived its usefulness and has become a real danger to the very future of humanity. The only possible replacement for capitalism is planned economy under the dictatorship of the proletariat where meeting people's material, cultural and spiritual needs is the driver of production rather than the quest for profit as at present.

This requires the proletariat to fight to overthrow capitalism and to establish its own class rule, which can only succeed if it is led by an effective communist party. In imperialist countries, however, the bourgeois ruling class has succeeded in besmirching the name of communism with its incessant and hysterical anti-communist propaganda and lies, to such an extent that the disenchanted masses, rather than turning to communism, are for the moment more inclined to gravitate towards far right parties or terrorist outfits, which are good at screaming abuse on behalf of "the common man" but are committed to preserving capitalism, not overthrowing it, and therefore offer no relief. A large responsibility for this parlous state of affairs lies at the door of social democracy, the ideology that devotes itself to improving the conditions of the workers *within capitalism* and inappropriately calls itself 'socialist'. Social-democratic organisations, such as the pre-Blair Labour Party (post-Blair it has ceased to be even social-democratic), have proved themselves unable to deliver on their impossible promises, yet it is socialism rather than social democracy which gets the blame. The corrosive influence of social democracy continues to pervade and emasculate the working class movement, presented as it is in different guises by Trotskyite and revisionist organisations.

Anybody who is serious about working effectively to end forever the curse of war needs to join the fight to overthrow capitalism, which requires at this moment in time a life and death struggle to build a party of the proletariat capable of acting as the general staff of the proletarian masses as they fight to fulfil their destiny of liberating humanity from hunger, destitution and war and preserving the planet for future generations. The CPGB-ML is working hard to try to become such a party and invites all those it is able to convince to dedicate their lives to this most noble cause.

Source: The official blog of the UK-based "Red Youth" organization, April 21, 2017: https://redyouth.org/2017/04/21/imperialisms-drive-to-war-in-korea/

The October Revolution: Not the Past but the Future

Dr. Taner Timur
Nuray Sancar

Theory and Practice, monthly socialist theory and politics magazine, held a panel discussion titled "100th Year of the October Revolution/The past, the presents, the future" in which the speakers were [historian and writer] Professor Dr Taner Timur and Nuray Sancar from Evrensel newspaper.

An Exception or an Accumulation?

Can the 1917 October revolution be seen as a deviation, an exception in the course of history? Truly extraordinary conditions, often put forward in the historical writings of bourgeois historians, can be identified regarding this era: WWI, international conditions where the Russian, Ottoman, Austrian-Hungarian and Chinese empires had collapsed. According to Sancar; with the unique conditions prior to and succeeding it, the October Revolution is not an exception but an expression of historical accumulation and 'universality' of the class struggle.

"Lyon uprisings in 1830, the Chartist movement in England, the revolution of 1848 took place in a period where workers started to become a 'class in itself' according to Marx. Since Marx and Engels writing a programme in 1848 for the movement with their Communist Manifesto, it was anticipated that the working class would one day come forward and demand to be the dominant class. Marxist theoreticians have monitored these movements closely. The Paris Commune of 1871 developed as an example of the organisation of the working class as the dominant class. And that movement harboured, as a seed, the October Revolution within itself.

Again, the October Revolution was a successful outcome of the class struggle and its organisation as a party. According to Sancar "the October Revolution was so organised, the date of the uprising was determined in advance, in detail. As Lenin put it "yesterday is too soon but tomorrow is too late." Neither is it isolated; German revolution, despite its defeat in 1918, Hungarian Revolution of 1919, workers' uprising and other insurgencies targeting the Bulgarian government in 1923 all show that the revolution was not an exception."

Lenin as a Tactician

Sancar identifies one of the most important lessons of the October revolution as the tactical and strategic leadership. With a reference to Lenin's 'What is to be Done?' she says "In conditions where workers' fighting for economic rights are stuck within the system, Lenin highlights the need for the working class reaching a level of political conscience; reached from outside the economic sphere and the sphere of political struggle. The vehicle to deliver this is the communist party where the workers unite with intellectuals." Pointing to Lenin's importance as a tactician Sancar says "Following the 1917 February Revolution, Lenin does not call for a direct grip of power; he puts forward the slogan of "damn the 10 capitalist ministers." He only called for "all power to the Soviets" when it was necessary. These tactical steps played a determining role in paving the way for revolution and building of the working class."

Building of Socialism: Electrification and the Soviets

Sancar points to two important factors in building of socialism, saying "The first is electrification as a major project of development. This is underestimated by bourgeois writers. It is seen as overly economical but was essential for an underdeveloped country, for its manufacture to develop, to break the effects of embargoes and the execution of welfare policies. With this planned economic policy, USSR surpassed developed capitalist countries in a short time. The second is the concept of Soviets. They first surfaced during the revolution of 1905 and born as a system of self-governance by the people. They were formed within the struggle; took shape as the foundation for a real democracy unseen in history, where ordinary people took part in governance, as the organs where they could join the political decision making process."

Stating that the October Revolution lead to a response not only within the USSR, Sancar went on to say "It triggered the establishment of peoples' democracies in many countries, as well as revolutions in China, Africa and Latin America. European social states developed under the influence and pressure of the workers' movements in these countries as well as socialism in the USSR. At the beginning of 1990's, bourgeoisie embarked on a new wave of 'globalism'. We live in a period where more people are increasingly in poverty and unemployed and rights that were won by peoples are removed. The reason for this is the control of means of production by a minority, just as it was before the October Revolution. As such, the October Revolution is not just a phenomenon that shaped our past but will also shape our future."

Understanding the Eastern Issue

Professor Timur started by outlining a historical international framework that led to the October Revolution. "The Russian Empire had structural similarities to the Ottoman Empire. The relationships that led to the Russian Revolution are linked to the East issue. The Ottomans' losing Crimea to the Russians with the Kaynarca agreement in 1774 led to a new balance. Until 1774, Ottomans were the East in the eyes of the West. It had ceased to be dangerous, but they didn't know how to approach it. Russians' capturing of Crimea, gaining access to the Black Sea and their fleets reaching the Mediterranean became the focus of the Eastern issue. The threat from the East was no longer the Ottomans but the Russians. Through the reforms first by Peter and then by Catherine, and with the removal of land slavery in 1861, Russians had started a new period with wide social consequences. During this period, the Ottoman Empire became the bumper zone for the Europeans against the Russians. This is the Eastern issue. An interesting fact that surfaced in archives is how the Russians view our compensations and reforms differently. They see it as a period where the West modernised the Ottoman military against the Russians. How did the Eastern issue end? Having taken power after Bismarck was brought down in 1890, Wilhelm II followed a pan-German policy and in 1894, the Russians and the French agreed to give Istanbul to the Russians; the French were to get Alsace- Lorraine. These deals were done in secret. Engels foresaw the results of the World War; he stated that more people will die than the sum of all the wars before."

Three Important Outcomes

Professor Timur identified three important outcomes of the October Revolution that apply today; "It has been 100 years, during which capitalism suffered big traumas; it is in a big crisis now. As capitalism is a worldwide system, the principles of the October Revolution continue to be current and valid. But we have to consider these with the concrete analysis of the concrete situation."

The first is imperialism. "Lenin says wealth accumulation in capitalism brought it to a new level. Is it true today? Yes, of course and much stronger. I think this is a reality of our age that needs underlining. Today, imperialism establishes oppression through the brutal methods of capitalism."

The second is class alliances. "Three currents arose after the February revolution. One is the conservative, reactionary current. It says; this is a bourgeois revolution and the rich land owners that became capitalists should govern. The other is Plekhanov… bourgeoisie is the leaders of the revolution, and power should be surrendered to them. Lenin's line is an alliance of farmers and workers under the leadership of the latter. According to Lenin, only those that lack self-confidence is scared of class alliances. We need to develop class alliances against the developing fascism."

The third is the right to self-determination of nations'…

October Revolution and the Nationality Issue

According to Timur, one of the great successes of the October Revolution is solving the nationality issue. "Russia was an empire of 160 million people in 1917; a despotic system called the dungeon of peoples. Russians were in the minority; about 43% of the population. Ukrainians, Belorussians and the Polish make up 70% of the rest. The other 30% of mainly Caucasians were regarded with ethnic prejudice. There is a massive problem of nationalities in such a country. Even the Russians are divided; the big Russians, Ukrainians as the little Russians, Belorussians as the white Russians. As in the Ottomans, nationalities are classified as the ruling and those that are ruled." How do you solve the nationalities issue in such a society? There have been three theses in the International since 1896. The first is the Polish nationals; they want a separate state. The second is the theses of Rosa Luxembourg. She was also Polish. Socialism can develop in large capitalist markets and build strong states, small countries on their own cannot succeed. The third is Kautsky's theses of nations and peoples taking charge of their own destiny. In 1903, Lenin adopted Kautsky's theses and nations right to determine their own future enters the party programme. But Lenin adds that this will not be supported unconditionally; only while it is in alliance with our proletarian revolution. There is no forced assimilation; we would turn a blind eye even to bourgeois nationalism but what is important is unity within the revolutionary stage. The outcome for today is peoples determining their own destiny; in support of separatism, based on united independence, decentralised, autonomous governance.

Evrensel Daily, 1 June 2017.

Source: http://www.revolutionarydemocracy.org/rdv23n1/october.htm

The War

George Tumaob Calaor

tide of people's war

against the US war of aggression

upsurges like storm of waves

from the depth of the deep blue sea!

the world soon shall be cleansed

from the wrath of imperialist order!

classes shall be perished!

equality shall reign high

at the height of clenching fists!